Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An electrical coupling bar ~~(1)~~ including:

[[-]] an electrically insulating support ~~(1a) exhibiting~~ comprising two parallel grooves ~~(2)~~,

[[-]] a metallic strip ~~(3)~~ engaged in each groove ~~(2)~~, the metallic strips ~~(3)~~ projecting out of the grooves and comprising ~~exhibiting~~ interior faces ~~(3a)~~ opposite one another, wherein ~~delimiting between them~~ a free engagement space ~~(4)~~ for a connecting device is delimited between the metallic strips, said free engagement space ~~(4)~~ being devoid of any element or of any part or extremity of said support ~~(1a)~~, [[-]] and

~~protecting~~ strip protection means covering the other faces ~~(3b, 3c, 3d)~~ of the metallic strips ~~(3)~~.

2. (currently amended) The electrical ~~Electrical~~ coupling bar ~~(1)~~ according to Claim 1, characterised in that the ~~protecting~~ strip protection means and the support ~~(1a)~~ are produced from a single piece.

3. (currently amended) The electrical ~~Electrical~~ coupling bar ~~(1)~~ according to Claim 2, characterised in that the metallic strips ~~(3)~~ are inserted into the support ~~(1a)~~.

4. (currently amended) The electrical ~~Electrical~~ coupling bar according to Claim 2, characterised in that the support ~~(1a)~~ is obtained by moulding of the metallic strips ~~(3)~~ from a casting.

5. (currently amended) The electrical ~~Electrical~~ coupling bar ~~(1)~~ according to Claim 4, characterised in that the support ~~(1a)~~ is made from ~~realised with~~ a material having a shape and a rigidity enabling the metallic strips ~~(3)~~ to be immobilised.

6. (currently amended) The electrical ~~Electrical~~ coupling bar ~~(1)~~ according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the support ~~(1a)~~ includes a fastening component ~~(1d)~~.

7. (currently amended) The electrical ~~Electrical~~ coupling bar ~~(1)~~ according to Claim 6, characterised in that the fastening component ~~(1d)~~ is a projecting part approximately perpendicular to the interior faces ~~(3a)~~ of the metallic strips ~~(3)~~.

8. (currently amended) An electrical cabinet ~~(6)~~ equipped with at least one electrical coupling bar ~~(1)~~ according to claim ~~any one of Claims~~ 1 ~~to 7~~.

9. (currently amended) A connecting device ~~(7)~~ intended to be engaged in a coupling bar ~~(1)~~ which comprises a support and ~~exhibits~~ two metallic strips ~~(3)~~ mounted in the [[a]] support ~~(1a)~~ and in which ~~delimiting between them~~ a free engagement space is delimited between the metallic strips ~~(4)~~, said device

including a casing ~~(8)~~, made from ~~realised with~~ an electrically insulating material and

forming a housing ~~(9)~~ provided with two input terminals ~~(16, 17)~~ for the connection of an electrical appliance ~~(10)~~ of the circuit-breaker type,

wherein:

two connecting lugs ~~(11, 12)~~ project~~ing~~ out of the casing ~~(8)~~, ensuring mechanical maintenance and the electrical link with the metallic strips ~~(3)~~ after ~~their~~ introduction of the metallic strips into the free engagement space ~~(4)~~,

the electrical link ~~being~~ is made from ~~realised with~~ metallic parts ~~(13)~~ joined respectively onto a face of one connecting lug ~~(11)~~ and onto an opposite face of the other connecting lug ~~(12)~~,

each connecting lug ~~(11, 12)~~ ~~being~~ is capable of establishing an electrical link with the corresponding metallic strip ~~(3)~~, and

the casing ~~(8)~~ ~~being~~ is also provided with two power-supply terminals ~~(14, 15)~~ integrating the electrical appliance ~~(10)~~ into the power-supply circuit when a load or another appliance is connected to the power-supply terminals ~~(14, 15)~~.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The connecting ~~Connecting~~ device ~~(7)~~ according to Claim 9 ~~or 10~~, including ~~characterised in that it includes~~

a means for indicating the energising of the metallic strips ~~(3)~~.

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) A protecting device comprising the [[a]] connecting device ~~(7)~~ according to claim ~~one of Claims~~ 9 ~~to 12~~ and an electrical circuit-breaker.

14. (new) A power supply device intended to be engaged in a coupling bar which comprises two metallic strips mounted in a support and in which a free engagement space is delimited between the metallic strips, said device including:

a casing, made from an electrically insulating material and

two power supply wires, each of which is linked to a connecting lug,

wherein:

said connecting lugs project out of the casing, ensuring mechanical maintenance and electrical link with the metallic strips after introduction of the metallic strips into the free engagement space,

the electrical link is made from metallic parts joined respectively onto a face of one connecting lug and onto an opposite face of the other connecting lug, and

each connecting lug is capable of establishing an electrical link with the corresponding metallic strip.

15. (new) The power supply device according to claim 14, wherein the power-supply lugs extend approximately orthogonally to the direction of introduction of the power supply wires into said device.

16. (new) The power supply device according to claim 15, further comprising an engagement fitting in which two routing zones of the power supply wires are capable of establishing a connection with the corresponding metallic parts.